

first node (step 702). This optional step ensures that no node remains without a backup node. Thereafter the backup nodes for nodes are redefined in step 703 and, as a ~~consequence~~ consequent, backup information is transmitted between nodes accordingly.

Please amend the paragraph that starts at page 13, line 18 as follows;

When backup nodes are defined for nodes in a security gateway cluster, a node may have one or more backup nodes. Consider, for example, the security gateway cluster 18 in Figure 1. One possibility to define backup nodes is to make a cyclic backup arrangement. In one cyclic backup arrangement, node 19a acts as backup node for node 19b, node 19b acts ~~as a~~ as a backup node for node 19c, and node 19c acts as backup node for node 19a. This cyclic backup arrangement requires in each node roughly 2/3 (1/3 for node's own node-specific state information and 1/3 for backup state information stored in the node) of the memory that is required, when node-specific state information is synchronized across all nodes of the security gateway cluster 18.